Registered at G.P.O., Wellington, for transmission by post as a Newspaper.

The New Zealand Beekeepers' Journal.

VOL. 5. **JUNE, 1st 1921.** No. 6.

Subscription: **6/-** per Annum in Advance.



Part of the Apiary of Misses Bernard & Barnes Drury.

ISSUED MONTHLY

FOR

THE NATIONAL BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION OF N.Z.

STONE, SON & CO., LTD., PRINTERS, DUNEDIN

New Zealand Beekeepers' Journal.

ADVERTISING RATES.

	1-Year	½-Year	¼-Year	1-Issue
Whole Page	£10	£6	£3 10s.	£1 5s.
Half Page	6	3 10s.	2 2s.	15s.
Quarter Page	3 10s.	2 2s.	1 5s.	10s.
One-eighth Page	2 2s.	1 5s.	15s.	5s.
1-inch Insertion	1 10s.	16s.	9s.	3s.

The New Zealand Beekeepers' Journal

The Official Organ of the
National Beekeepers' Association of N.Z.

No. 6 | Vol. 5 | 6/- Per Annum.

National Beekeepers' Association of New Zealand.

The object of the Association is the improvement of the Beekeeping Industry and furthering the interests and prosperity of the Beekeepers throughout the Dominion. Membership is extended to any Beekeeper who is in accord with the aims and objects of the Association on payment of fees as follows:—1 to 15 Hives, 5/-; 16 to 50 Hives, 10/-; 51 to 100 Hives, 15/-; 100 to 200 Hives, 20/-; every additional 100, 5/- extra.

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CONTENTS.

EDITORIAL.

The programme of the Conference, included in this Journal, will show that it promises to be as good as any, and should attract a very large number of beekeepers. The papers touch on almost every phase of beekeeping, and the subjects are being handled by men who "know whereof they speaketh." The Secretary desires to heartily thank all those who have come forward to make such an interesting programme possible, and we look for a big attendance to enjoy it.

There is to be no mistake this year on the demonstration of comb melters: the two inventors of the latest patterns have definitely made all arrangements for this, and a large amount of unextractable honey has been secured, so that a good test can be made.

Another quite new appliance is to be demonstrated by the inventor, Mr. D. Franke, of Turakina, who claims that his machine will render possible thick honey being extracted from the combs without injury to the latter. This is quite the "dark horse" of the meeting, as the appliance is not yet on the market. We can

only say that if the appliance does this with anything like speed, the inventor has hit on something that is going to mean thousands of pounds to the beekeepers of this Dominion.

We have no hesitation in saying that it will be money well spent to attend this year's Conference.

* * * *

With reference to the computation made last month of the amount of money that would be raised under the proposed scale of taxing apiaries on the present registrations, we have received advice from the Department that the amount would be, roughly, £2,500. We made an error in our arithmetic, which one of our scholastic friends pointed out; but our total was within £95 of the Department's figures, so our estimate fitted our argument very well.

* * * *

We publish elsewhere a letter received from Mr. F. S. Pope, Acting Director-General of Agriculture, on the matter of the resolution passed last Conference regarding the regulation of Apiary Boundaries. We are quite willing to let the matter rest with that.

* * * *

To our mind there are only two matters of vital importance connected with our industry: the one is the elimination of disease, and the other the successful marketing of our produce. On these two depend entirely the success or failure of our industry.

* * * *

The following is rather good reading to beekeepers. A "cub" reporter handed the following news to his chief:—"—— was charged with keeping a brood of fowls in a bee-hive." Needless to say, it did not pass the Sub-editor.

Market Reports.

With heavy stocks and no export demand, values are nominal. Sellers at the moment do not report their sales, which must be quite moderate. We know of a sale of Pile 1 at 70/- and Pile 3 at 42/6. It is reported that direct shipment can be bought out in Chile at 25/- per cwt. c.i.f. to New York. We do not advise any shipments to Liverpool.

Beeswax.—The market is still unsatisfactory. During the past month African and other kinds of wax have been selling at £4 to £6 10s. per cwt. Chilian: Two hundred and five bags sold at £6 12s. 6d., which are going out of the country. Retail sales at £8 7s. 6d. to £9 per cwt.

TAYLOR & CO.

Liverpool, 2nd March, 1921.

The Director of the Horticulture Division has received from the apiary instructors the following reports concerning the honey crop prospects:—

Auckland.—Prices remain unchanged for light coloured honey, but there is little demand for the darker classes. Large quantities are now arriving at the grading store, the large bulk of it being light amber. The weather has been cold, indicating a nearly winter.—G. V. Westbrooke.

Wellington.—The honey crop throughout the district has been gathered, and the surplus in most instances is all that could be desired. The quality is up to the usual high standard, some of the samples seen being equal to the finest produced in the Dominion. The grading stores are gradually filling up with honey for export, and a notable feature this year is the new export tin with a screw top cap—a great improvement on the old push-in lid. Prices are remaining firm for good quality lines as reported last month. Section honey is scarce, not enough being produced for local consumption. Beeswax is quoted at 2/3 per lb.—F. A. Jacobsen.

Christchurch and Dunedin.—There is little fresh to report. Extracting has finished, and beekeepers are busy packing their product for export. Prices are firm. Market quotations for bulk honey: Light amber to white, 7½d. to 8d.; 10-lb. tins, 7/9 to 8/-; sections—first grade 1/2 to 1/3; second grade 7d. to 8d. Pat honey: Very little offering. Beeswax, 2/- per lb.—E. A. Earp.

Apiary Boundaries Question.

Wellington, 13th May, 1921.

F. C. Baines, Esq.,
Secretary National Beekeepers' Assn.,
Kati Kati, Bay of Islands.

Dear Sir,—

Adverting to your letter of 21st Oct., in which you make some suggestions in regard to the licensing of apiaries and the regulation of the establishment of outapiaries, I beg to inform you that I have had discussions with my officers, and have gone carefully into this matter on several occasions. In regard to the registration of apiaries, new regulations, providing for annual registration and the payment of a fee, have been prepared, and I hope to have them available shortly for discussion by your Association. The Director of the Horticulture Division will get into touch with you in this connection. This annual registration will mark a step forward in the industry, and it is hoped that additions to the staff will be possible. It will then be able to maintain a closer touch with the industry, and the Department will be in a better position to judge what further developments are desirable. I do not think the time is ripe for the

regulation of the establishment of apiaries; the procedure outlined by you would involve a good deal of work. It would mean that officers of the Department would have to hold themselves available to answer any calls for reports upon the proposed establishment of apiaries. This would be impossible with our present staff, and besides, in view of the large area still available for the extension of the beekeeping industry, it seems unnecessary at present to take the action proposed.

Yours faithfully,
F. S. POPE,
Acting Director-General.

District Reports.

RANGIORA.

The above Branch held a meeting on April 20th. Owing to a very unpleasant evening, only a small number of beekeepers attended; but those present were very enthusiastic. After half an hour of general business, Mr. H. A. Johnstone (President) briefly addressed the meeting upon "The Wintering of Bees." He was listened to very attentively, and answered questions afterwards, almost all those present having a question to ask. Six new members joined during the evening, and things seem so favourable that we ought to have a strong Branch by the time summer arrives.

We desire to draw the attention of the beekeepers of this district to the schedule of classes for honey at the next annual show of the North Canterbury Poultry and Pigeon Club, to be held in Rangiora on July 1st and 2nd. There are ten classes—Liquid and Granulated Honey, Comb Honey, Full Comb, Pat Honey, Beeswax (three classes), and Observation Hive. We should like our friends to prove the justification of our efforts to include these classes in the schedule.

Entries close with the Secretary, Mr. W. T. Wilson, Rangiora, on 18th June.

It will considerably help both the industry and the Branch if a good entry eventuates.

J. S. COOK, Secretary,
April 26, 1921.

TARANAKI.

Mr. Gilling has just paid us a visit, and has found quite a lot of trouble in the foul-brood line for some beemen, proving himself a live wire. He has now gone on to New Plymouth, where he hopes to have a better chance of finding disease owing to the milder climate and later brood-rearing.

I noticed in last Journal a rub for a Taranaki shareholder of the H.P.A. who is selling honey in Dannevirke. I, guess I know who he is, and also that he will be at the H.P.A. meeting with a very good reason for doing so.

Hoping to see you all at Conference.
H. R. PENNY.
Okaiawa, 15/5/21.

WEST COAST.

An Executive meeting of the above was held in the Foresters' Hall on April 16th. There were present Messrs. Kitchingham, Angel, Coulson, Baty, and Dixon, apologies being received from Messrs. O'Connell and Cochrane.

Mr. Baty (chairman) explained that as this was the first meeting of the Executive, the chief matter before them was the arrangement of a syllabus for the season that would be both instructive and entertaining to the members. It was decided that meetings be held fortnightly, and the following programme was agreed to:—

April 23—General Business.

May 7—Wintering: Taking off Spare Supers, Dry Combs, &c.

May 21—Hive-making, Supers, Cover-boards.

June 4—Mr. Ridley's (Agriculture Instructor for Education Dept.) Address.

June 18—Hive-making, Floor-boards, Frames, Wiring, &c.

July 2—Location of an Apiary Flight of Bees, &c.

July 16—Left to Executive to fill.

July 30—Foul-brood: Its Causes & Treatment.

Aug. 13—Left to Executive to fill.

Aug. 27—Left to Executive to fill.

Sept. 10—Feeders, Feeding, &c.

Sept. 24—Stimulation Feeding; Spring Management.

Oct. 8—General Apiary Management.

Oct. 22—Swarm Control.

Nov. 5—Swarming, Hiving, &c.

Nov. 19—Supering; Ventilation.

Dec. 3—Queen-rearing.

Dec. 17—Queen-rearing.

Dec. 31—Queen-rearing and Introducing.

Jan. 14, 1922—Nucleus Colonies, How to Make, &c.

Jan. 28—Extracting.

Feb. 11—Left to Executive to fill.

Feb. 25—Preparing for Winter.

Mar. 11—Annual Meeting.

Lectures will commence at 7.30 p.m., and finish at 8.20 p.m., when questions on the subject of the lecture will be answered.

Brunner. G. R. DIXON.

TAIERI.

"Tempers fewgy." We are a year older. Time, the rascally robber, has deprived us of naught. Weight of years and wealth of wisdom march together, they say. Maybap; but we have no desire for toothless sapience. A word to the wise . . . you know.

The annual meeting was held on 4th May; a good attendance—15, as a matter of fact. Membership will probably reach 23 this year. That spells progress. Officers for the year are as follows:—President, Mr. D. A. McLeod; Vice-President, Mr. J. Pinder; Committee—Messrs. McCann, Jones, Wilson, Clark, McDowall; Hon. Secretary, B. H. Howard.

We are going to be very much alive this year, it seems. You see, we had a tabloid dose of "Baines' Pep." (builds bonny branches).

We are beginning to realise the importance of concerted action; wherefore we state that we are unanimously and totally opposed to the institution of a tax to help the penniless (sic) Government to carry out and enforce its own regulations. We have a just claim to ample protection; in asking for a tax we forego this claim; we acknowledge that it is not incumbent on the Government to enforce the law; we encourage its duty-forgetting propensities. The financial world is shaky just now, they say; money is tight, they say. Very well; the Government must be careful of its expenses. Under these conditions the industry that sits tight acknowledges that it is satisfied, or admits that it is too backboneless to press for its legitimate rights. We therefore object to this attempt to cajole the Government, even as a spoilt child, by the offer of money. Like the child, it will grow to like it. There is hardly any necessity to remark that prevention is better than cure. Once this delightfully folly is established, there will be no cure, short of bombs and bolshies.

Publicity is the thing. The claims of orchardists, farmers, &c., have filled many a column in the daily papers. They have won their cases, too. Modesty is good enough in its place; but modesty, when one's interests are at stake, is plain unadulterated vice.

If these means do not succeed, then let us bolsh; let us all grow whiskers ('tateho' is good), forswear the barber. When the hirsuflage is complete, let us invade Parliament, armed to the cell-cup with snickersnee, hive-tool, steam-heated knife (that'd give 'em fits), and belching smoker. Then let the Bolshissimos (that would be the Executive ex officio) arise and drive home their ultimatum with an embedder.

We think likewise that if, in spite of all, our demands are refused, we should rest content with what we have. A sting in the hand is worth two in the hive, you know. The tax is a fatal precedent. (Diximus.)

We shall not be at the Conference (can't stand the tropics), but we wish you all good luck.

BASIL H. HOWARD.

May 8th, 1921.

HAURAKI PLAINS.

Foul-brood is a serious item in these parts. One beekeeper in the Ngatea district treated somewhere about 50 colonies last season; another had to treat the whole of one yard.

That a lot of people do not know all about bees is instanced by the following:—A local storekeeper received a case of "Imperial Bee" honey containing a broken jar, which he put outside on an empty box, not thinking of the apiary not 500 yards away, and that in February, when robbing was at its worst. He soon had more yellow-banded bees in his shop than he ever had customers. However, a little advice was all that was needed: it will not be his fault if it happens again.

The Editor's account of his travels, which appeared in the April Journal, made very interesting reading, and I am sure his tour would do a lot to raise enthusiasm in the industry.

Mr. Barker's paper on "Mason Bees" was of special interest to anyone living here. When going to an out-apiary for the day, one must put his coat (if it is a good one) in a bag; if it is only an old coat, just hang it up, and before you put it on at night, shake out the dozens of clay-encased spiders. I wonder if Mr. Barker can account for Mason bees gathering pollen. I have on several occasions watched them working on ti-tree flowers with pollen pellets on their legs like the hive bees. I have often wondered what they did with the pollen; I do not see how it can be to feed the young, as they apparently do not hatch from their clay cells till the following spring.

N. J. BOWMAN.

Patetonga, 1/5/21.

SOUTHLAND.

The Southland Branch is still healthy. The annual meeting took place in Invercargill on Saturday, May 14th, the attendance being very satisfactory. Keen interest was displayed by members in the apiaries tax question, and all were agreed that as some form of tax was likely to be imposed in any case, it was better for us to support the scheme proposed by the Standing Committee.

The letter from the National Secretary conveying the information that the Department estimate our scheme to realise £2,500 was very helpful in giving us something definite to go on. Our Branch is very decidedly of opinion that a tax that will realise that sum is quite heavy enough and are strongly opposed to acceptance

of any scheme that would make the impost heavier. The feeling of the meeting amounted to this: "If we can be assured that the money raised will be spent in furthering our interests, we are quite willing to pay the tax up to a reasonable amount." What we want is a chief apiarist who is qualified for his job, and who has the authority given him to conduct the work of the Apiaries Division in a business-like way, getting value for the money spent. If his Department will appoint a Chief Apiarist satisfactory to the beekeepers, and clothe him with the necessary powers, we are quite willing to find our share of the tax. But we consider if we are to find the money, we are entitled to a voice in making the most important appointment. Practically the success or failure of the proposed closer inspection will rest on the man who becomes Chief Apiarist. If either the wrong man is appointed, or even if the right man is appointed, and his powers are so limited that he cannot carry out his plans, then our money would be simply wasted. Another request that we should urge is that the penalties under the Apiaries Act should be enforced. A few days ago a number of box-hive keepers were convicted at Invercargill and ordered to come up for sentence when called on. When will you get the law observed if penalties of that kind are all that the law-breaker need fear. The man who picks up a stray swarm will simply chance getting summoned. The inspector may not come round this year, or he may be too busy to call here; or if he does 'put me up' it is cheaper to pay a 5/- fine than buy a frame hive. So he chances it, and usually gets away with it.

As none of those at the meeting could see their way to attend this year's Conference, it was agreed to ask Mr. R. W. Brickell, of Dunedin, and Mr. Jas. Allan, of Nelson, to act as our delegates to Conference. Both these gentlemen are well acquainted with Southland, and can speak with full knowledge of the views of the honey men in the far south.

It was agreed to nominate Mr. A. R. Bates, of Taranaki, as Vice-President for the coming year; also to again nominate the local secretary as Southland's representative on the National Executive. It was also agreed that our Branch is in favour of the proposal to amend the Constitution on the lines advocated in Mr. Bartlett-Miller's article in the May Journal. There may be reasons not known to us against such a course, but from our point of view such a change seems desirable.

On the question of where Conference should meet, Southland sends its best wishes to Auckland, and hopes the 1921 Conference will be a top-notcher.

At that Conference the question will be raised—Where Shall We Meet in 1922? and what should guide us in deciding that question? Southland Branch is of the opinion that Conference should meet alternately in Wellington and Christchurch, thus giving the North Island members all a fair chance one year and the South Island members a fair chance the following year. Of course, a number of South Island men would attend at Wellington, but the number would be limited, and the same would apply to visitors from the North when Conference was held in Christchurch. On the whole, however, we ought to get better representation in this way than if the meetings take place at such extreme points as Auckland and Invercargill. Wellington as a meeting-place every year has its advantages, such as close proximity to Ministers and departmental heads; but we think that these advantages are outweighed by the advantage of securing a more frequent attendance of beekeepers, who would be practically debarred altogether if the big event always takes place in the North Island. Therefore, Southland's voice is for Christchurch in 1922.

Members were all agreed that our Branch had received a good leg-up by the visit paid to our Field Day by Messrs. Rentoul and Baines. We cordially invite them to come again next year, and although they may think the results do not warrant them in again making such a tour, we desire to dissent most emphatically from such a view. That visit took place only a few months ago. Very decided improvement has taken place even in that time, and present indications are that as the months pass the improvements shown will multiply. Come again, gentlemen! You cannot come too often!

L. IRWIN.

15th May, 1921.

HAWKE'S BAY.

The annual meeting, just over, marked the close of a successful year. A fair amount of work has been done, and the members present showed hearty appreciation of their Committee's labours.

The President stressed the value of being in touch by means of delegates with the annual Conference of the parent body. The reports brought to us from previous Conferences have invariably proved inspiring.

At general meetings, addresses have been given by Mr. H. Shepherd, Chaplain-Captain Hardie, and Mr. Gilling.

Two Field Days have been held, but a third unfortunately fell through.

Mention was made of the honey display at the local agricultural show. A full support of the members would make the next display even more successful.

Mr. Gilling's visit has been greatly appreciated. A good deal of work was done in the district. It seems that beekeepers can now take heart, indeed, realising that at last has come the means of fighting the one great enemy, foul-brood.

During the year the Executive put in practice the plan of allotting a part of each general meeting for questions by members, and this practice, taken full advantage of, will undoubtedly be of great benefit to members, particularly beginners.

For the coming year the following officers were elected:—President, Mr. Arch. Lowe; Vice-President, Mr. H. Shepherd; secretary, Mr. J. P. Boyle; Committee—Mrs. Shepherd, and Messrs. Ross, Coombe, McCulloch, Hill; Hon. Auditor, Mr. C. Ibbetson.

J. P. BOYLE.

19th May, 1921.

AUCKLAND.

At the annual meeting of the National Beekeepers' Association and Auckland Bee Club, held on the 18th May in the Chamber of Commerce, Mr. I. Hopkins in the chair, the secretary presented a very satisfactory report of the work done during the past period. The present officers were all re-elected.

After the business meeting, a series of lantern slides and motion pictures illustrating modern bee culture were displayed. Mr. W. J. Jordan, of the Honey Producers' Association, late apiary instructor to the New Zealand Forces in France, reviewed the life history of the honey bee, describing its wonderful anatomy, instincts, and habits, with the attendant pests and diseases incidental to its existence. The making of wax, the building of comb, the secretion of honey, and the rearing of brood were all fully explained and illustrated, together with interesting detail of the working of the hive commonwealth. Beekeeping in ancient and modern times, both savage and civilised, was compared in an interesting manner. Moving pictures illustrative of the work done at the Ruakura Instruction Farm followed Mr. Jordan's lecture, after which votes of thanks were accorded Mr. Hopkins and Mr. Jordan.

Canterbury Tales.

By E. G. WARD.

As I shall not be at the Conference this year, I propose to say a few words on some of the subjects which will come up for discussion. I am afraid the attendance from Canterbury will be very meagre, but there is no doubt our thoughts will be with our northern friends.

The apiary tax has been adversely commented on by everyone I have spoken to on the subject, and a resolution was unanimously passed at the last meeting of the Canterbury Branch—

> "That this Branch cannot see its way to support the apiary tax in its present form."

The Editor's remarks in last issue fully cover the ground, and I am in complete accord with him. I am not going to deny that at last Conference I favoured the measure, but I am older now, and perhaps just a wee bit wiser.

The selling end of the business will be dealt with chiefly by the shareholders of the H.P.A. at the adjourned annual meeting, but it is a subject which, of course, appeals to all honey producers above all others. The Editor has also dealt with this department, and said about all that can be said. His remarks about the fellow who is on the look-out to get all the advantages of organisation without putting his hand in his pocket are particularly appropriate. I have met and heard of quite a number of that kind, and these are the people who are playing right into the hands of those who would glory in our downfall. It is unfortunately true that we cannot help ourselves without helping them, and they know it.

The last few short paragraphs in the Editor's department makes one "sit up and take notice." If shareholders cannot be loyal, one can hardly blame outsiders, but of course the fact is that both parties are on the look-out for No. 1, and forget that if we all unite it will be for the good of all. The cutting of prices will not do any good. A writer in "Gleanings" for April states that, although he had reduced his prices three separate times, he was not selling any more honey than before he cut prices at all.

The Editor makes out a good case for the development of the local market, which ought to be able to absorb all the honey produced in the Dominion. If the 78,000 hives were to produce an average of 25lb. each, it would amount to a little over 870 tons; and an average consumption of about 1½lbs. per head of the population per annum would dispose of the lot. Of course, we must not lose sight of the fact that jam, golden syrup, and bottled fruit are strong competitors, but a good advertising campaign would no doubt increase the demand enormously. American beekeepers are working along these lines with considerable success, and clearly recognise that united effort is necessary. It may be argued that advertising is expensive, and so it is, but ¼d. per lb. on the above quantity would amount to over £2,000, and that sum would be well spent if it made us independent of outside markets. I used to hold strong views in favour of the export trade, but now that we have our own Company to handle our product, I have modified my opinions.

I was surprised on reading under "Nature Notes" in the Lyttelton Times of April 16th that, in the opinion of Mr. W. W. Smith, curator of Pukekura Park, New Plymouth, the humble bee is an undesirable insect. He says, in writing to Professor Drummond, the contributor of the column:—"The three species of introduced humble-bees have appeared in great numbers, especially the yellow-banded form (Rombus terrestris; variety virginalis). This is a very destructive insect, and its introduction into New Zealand was a costly error of acclimatisation." Strictly speaking, it is not "our funeral," as it does not add to or detract from our honey crop; but, considering the difficulties which were met and overcome in getting the humble bee introduced here at all, it must be disconcerting to those responsible to find that a mistake has been made. If any readers of the Journal care to follow up the subject, it would be worth their while to obtain Bulletin No. 46 (new series) published by the Department of Agriculture. It's title is "History of the Humble-bee in New Zealand: Its Introduction and Results," by I. Hopkins. The pamphlet is exceedingly interesting and exhaustive. Curiously enough, a Mr. W. W. Smith, F.E.S., who, Mr. Hopkins says, kindly looked through the paper with a view to suggesting corrections or additions, says in one of his notes:—"(5) As no harm has resulted from previous introductions of humble-bees, I cannot see that any injury would follow further introductions of these valuable economic insects." Further light on the subject would be interesting, as the general opinion among farmers seems to be that without the humble-bee the seeding of red clover would be almost impossible.

I wonder when our magistrates will realise what a serious menace foul-brood is to successful beekeeping? It appears that three residents in the Rangiora district were proceeded against for failing to clean up after being notified by the inspector. After hearing the evidence, the magistrate (Mr. Day) said that the matter not being a serious one, a fine of ten shillings would meet the case! I am afraid that as long as the matter is viewed in this light we shall have foul-brood, like the poor, always with us.

The fourteenth annual meeting of the Canterbury Branch of the National was held in the Trades Hall on Saturday, 14th May. The weather was vile, and the attendance small. Mr. C. A. Pope (President) was in the chair. A long discussion took place on the proposed apiary tax, and most of those present had a "kick" at it. The general opinion was that instead of asking to be taxed that we should ask for treatment similar to the dairying industry. Attention was called to the difference in railway charges on honey as compared with dairy produce and fruit. Altogether this subject had a pretty rough passage. A remit from the Rangiora Branch to the effect that the Department be urged to deal drastically with disease found strong support, and was cordially endorsed. The resignation of Mr. H. A. Johnstone was accepted with regret. A scheme of mutual visiting between the Canterbury and Rangiora Branches was mooted by Mr. Johnstone, and was agreed to. It was left to Mr. Pope, Miss Mackay and Mr. Johnstone to arrange a day when a party from Christchurch would spend a day with their Rangiora "cousins" for the purpose of giving a little friendly advice. I understand Mr. Earp will be asked to attend also, and demonstrate if the day is propitious. The annual report and balance sheet were adopted, and the following officers elected for the ensuing year:—President, Mr. C. A. Pope; Vice-Presidents, Messrs. A. Johnstone, E. G. Ward, C. A. Jacobsen, J. C. Yeoman, F. W. Oetgen; Secretary, Miss Mackay; Treasurer, Mr. A. Eeroyd; Librarian, Mr. W. A. Sillifant; Auditor, Mr. E. G. Ward; Reporter, Mr. E. G. Ward; Committee—Mrs. Ward, Messrs. Verrale and Shaskey.

Out Apiary Management.

Within the last few years beekeeping in New Zealand has gone ahead by leaps and bounds, and no doubt the N.Z. Honey Producers' Association is responsible for this rapid growth. Even in the very worst of times like the present, we are getting an advance from our own Association of 5d. per lb. on first grade honey; thus every beekeeper ought to be proud that he belongs to this great co-operative concern, which is still growing. Up to a few years ago commercial beekeepers in New Zealand could be counted on one hand; but to-day there are men who are in the business not only for pleasure but for the money there is to be derived from the bees.

When one starts in a small way with a few hives, bee journals and books are exceedingly useful; but as time advances and out-yards are to be established, then we can get very little knowledge from books, for little attention has been paid to the running of out-apiaries, &c.

As I have been asked on many occasions how I manage to run so many out-yards and still manage my farm and business, I will do my best to explain my way of working the bees, and how we have secured an average of 145 lbs. of honey per hive for the past three seasons, with 25 per cent. increase each season.

When we first contemplated starting out-apiaries, the question arose, How are we going to handle the honey? To erect sheds at each yard and have a portable outfit is too expensive, and it would take up too much valuable time in the rush to get the extracting done, for we have two extractings from each yard. So we decided, after going into the matter carefully, that the central extracting outfit

would be the most convenient and economical, and I still have the same opinion—that is, if a person intends to run a string of out-apiaries. These should be, if possible, established in a circuit, so that if you finish one yard and only have half a load, it would be easy to finish your load on the way home. With the central extracting room, one can have all the conveniences permanent and everything handy, for short-cuts in the extracting room are just as essential as in the bee-yard. I remember well our first experience of taking honey from an out-apiary with a horse and spring-cart, and if ever our old nag broke a record it was on that occasion, and also the ones in charge of her, for bees and horses do not go well together. After our first season's experience with horses to remove the honey home to be extracted, we decided that if the business must grow, we must get more up to date; so a Ford one-ton truck was purchased, and has been doing good work ever since, and as a matter of fact the bees never attempt to sting her!

Our extracting room measures 30 x 28ft., and the Ford truck is run right in beside the uncapping trough, which is about 8ft. long with ¼-inch mesh wire strainer and shallow vat underneath to hold the honey that strains through. This uncapping trough is large enough to hold a day's uncappings, which is left to strain till the following day, when the wax is put in benzine tins and put on one side, to be dealt with later on.

In establishing out-yards, one must study conveniences. To put hives out 10 ft. in rows and 10ft. between rows is out of the question, unless one is fond of extra useless work. After a good deal of experimenting, we decided to establish all yards in two double rows. Thus for a yard of 50 colonies we fence off a piece of ground 17ft. wide by 112ft. long; four pegs are driven in, with 3 x 1½ nailed on to form a stand for the bottom boards. These stands are long enough to hold two bottom-boards, and are kept about 10 in. above the ground, and the wire fence is right up against the front of the bottom board, so that the cattle can reach through the fence for some little distance and keep down the grass. This does away with the labour of cutting grass, which I think most beekeepers will admit is a very disagreeable job. Between this front row of stands another row of pegs is driven in, thus forming the second row, and when bottom boards are put on the front will be in a line with the back of the front row. Our bottom boards are 2 ft. long, so the two rows take up 4 ft. in width, leaving 9 ft. roadway, and then 4 ft. for the two back rows, making 17 ft. wide in all; the stands between the rows are 9 ft. centres. A yard laid out on these lines cuts down labour considerably, and we find the bees do not mix any more than if set out in any other way.

The ton truck is run down the centre of the yard, so all heavy lifting is cut down to a minimum; straight from the hives on to the truck; no pushing heavy wheelbarrows or carrying heavy supers.

Now for the working of the bees. As I am a farmer, and also have other side lines, naturally all unavoidable and unnecessary work is cut out. About the middle of October the motor truck has to do quick time to the out-yards, for swarming is coming on, and "he who hesitates is lost." Arriving at the apiary with my two men, the hives are quickly gone through; whether weak or strong, they all get the same treatment, and will come out fairly even in strength when the honey flow starts in earnest.

In the autumn all the bees and supers are shifted across to one side of the yard, so that each stand has two hives of bees on it close against one another, and facing the same way—we will say east. We take all the frames of brood and bees except one frame with the queen and give to the hive alongside, and replace with empty drawn-out comb. The next move is to reverse the whole hive and bottom-board, so that the entrance to this hive is facing west. Now, the two hives and bottom-boards must be close together, or the bees will crawl between. All the old bees will be switched into the hive facing east, and the young ones will know no better, and stay in the hive facing west. Thus we have accomplished the first part of controlling swarming, which only takes a few minutes per hive; and thus we proceed until we finish the yard.

Now, about 14 or 16 days later we return to the yard, and on this trip we simply pick up the whole hive and bottom-board which we gave all the brood to on our first trip, and carry it over to the other side of the yard and put it on its permanent summer stand. After this we simply remove the hive facing east a little forward on the bottom-board so as to give a back entrance to this hive to catch the old workers who have been used to coming into the hive we shifted; so we have once more drafted the old bees from the young and checked swarming.

Our next trip is not made till about the middle of December, when extracting starts. The motor truck is ready, and we usually make a start from home about 7 a.m., the team comprising one permanent man, a cadet, and myself. Arrived at the apiary, the truck is backed down in the centre of the yard, and within about an hour and a half we will have thirty full supers which make about a ton gross weight on the truck and another thirty full supers stacked up in the yard ready to load up for the second trip. Arriving home, the truck is run right in alongside the uncapping trough, the supers are unloaded, and away I go for the second load, while my two men get the three extractors going. By working like this we can take off and extract anything up to 30 cwt. per day. After returning with the second load, I give a hand in the

extracting room till about 4 o'clock, when I proceed to attend to the milking of the cows. My two men usually get cleaned up about 6.30 p.m. The wet supers are taken back each morning and put on the hives.

The last extracting is usually finished up early in April, when all empty supers are put at the bottom, and the brood nest on top ready for the spring. If this method is followed, the bees will keep the wax moth out of the empty combs, and when the first trip is made in the spring the brood nest is put at the bottom. When we are putting the brood nest on top in the autumn, we remove the hive and bottom-board over to one side of the yard, so that everything is ready, and I do not go near the yard again till October.

To make sure that the hive covers do not blow off in any winter storms, we have concrete blocks that weigh about 10 lbs. to put on each cover; so that for about six months of the year I almost forget I have out-apiaries.

I have now given you my way of working out-apiaries, which is very satisfactory in this district. I never did believe in playing with bees by doing unnecessary work and hindering them, and may I make it plain that too many beekeepers do not give enough attention to good queens—and young ones at that. In this district, to get the best results one must re-queen every year, and if possible re-queen at the end of November.

There is one point which must not be overlooked, and that is if foul-brood is about I would not recommend anyone to work on these lines unless the greatest care is exercised.

A. L. LUKE.

April 14th, 1921.

The New Zealand Apiaries' Act.

THE IMPORTATION OF QUEENS AND BEES.

BEE DISEASES.

In view of the very serious position of bee farmers in breeding their bees, as well as to better their present race, the introduction of new blood is an absolute necessity, or else the existing strain will gradually degenerate, with its many disadvantages. There are several ways to attain this object; but first, the introduced blood must be superior to the existing strain. A beneficial result will soon be noticed.

This introduction leads me to another matter of great importance—namely, "The Importation of Queens and Bees." Recently the New Zealand Government passed an Act prohibiting the importation of queens and bees, as well as other apiary requisites, from outside parts, under certain conditions. Good; this in a sense of speaking, may seem quite a good step accomplished. But is it? Time will prove. In the issue of the "New Zealand Fruitgrower," dated March 16th, under the heading, "The Apiarist," there is an article by "Critic" and another by F. H. Benton, as well as the results of the Waipa Bee Club's meeting held on February 25th. These writings give considerable food for thought, as well as open one's eyes. According to these notes, New Zealand beekeepers are very far from being free of disease. Mr. Benton clearly states that the inspector of the Wairarapa district found 90 per cent. of the apiaries diseased, and emphasises the fact that the chief source was with the commercial beekeeper. "Critic's," as well as the Waipa Bee Club's remarks, are also far from inspiring. Fancy 200 tons of honey being lost annually through foul-brood! How many years does that date back? Something lost there, all right. In the Act, under the heading "Admission of Bees," paragraph (4), marked (1) and (2), it distinctly states in No. (1) that no queens and bees, &c. shall be sent out unless the owner will give a certificate that the disease, Bacillus larvae and Bacillus pluten (otherwise foul-brood), are not known to exist in or within five miles of such apiary. Does it seem feasible to suppose that any honest queen-breeder of good repute, or even commercial beekeeper, would have foul-brood in his apiary, or know of anyone within, say, a radius of ten miles, let alone five, and not at once use measures, either his own or Government assistance, to at once eradicate the disease? For his own advantage alone he would do it. May I ask, Are the New Zealand breeders and suppliers of bees and queens bound down to this five-mile radius? If not, why not?

In the second paragraph marked (2), it reads: "That the disease Nosema apis (known as Isle of Wight disease) is not known to exist in such State or country." This absolutely "takes the bun!" Too ridiculous for words! According to history, both modern and ancient, Nosema apis is all over the world, and so will continue more or less until bees are no more. The ridiculous part is, how is the unfortunate breeder who has never had this disease going to have his bees pronounced free from this germ when, say, a case of supposed Nosema apis, or even the genuine disease, is diagnosed 200 miles away from his apiary? According to this paragraph, his bees will then be considered infectious, and, granting that his apiary is healthy, he would not be granted the necessary certificate. What rubbish! May I ask again, Does this paragraph apply to the New Zealand breeders? If not, why not?

Furthermore, the query is, Where is New Zealand going to get her fresh supplies of queen if all beekeepers and inspectors act honestly and adhere to the rules of the Act? It may be possible to teach the virgin queens to take long flights and, by coaxing the drones a bit, gradually arrange a mating midway between New Zealand and Australia, so that the importation of fresh blood could be done away with altogether. Does the New Zealand Beekeepers' Association give a guarantee or enclose their certificate, or the apiary inspectors when shipping honey to other ports—say Sydney—that the honey is free from disease germs? Is it not feasible to suppose that some New Zealand honey is bought and fed to starving bees?

What about New Zealand breeders sending queens and bees to Australia? Does the Act apply to them, or are they allowed to send when and how they please, irrespective of disease, either in their own or adjoining apiary? In view of the fact published in the "Fruitgrower," would it not seem more reasonable, as well as only fair to the commercial beekeeper, that fresh blood is what is badly needed? Does it not occur to the deep-thinking man that so much disease only proves that the strain is bad—wants changing? In fairness to all, I am very much in favour of safeguarding fellow beekeepers' interests; but in my opinion when the Act was passed the beekeepers unfortunately were not present. No sound-minded man, who had the interests of the industry and fellow beekeepers at heart, would listen to such twaddle, let alone pass such an Act. It reminds one of the saying, "Close the door after the cock has flown." To read the Act, one is impressed with the feeling—very forcibly too—that New Zealand is free from all bee diseases. How can the conveners of such an Act honestly desire to keep New Zealand clean, with the present conditions inside? Would it not be quite sufficient if the inspector of the different States and districts examined the queen breeder's apiary, say, once a month, and on his certificate queens and bees be allowed to travel? Why should the queen-breeder be responsible for the disease in the whole State or country? Is he not the first man to look to get good sound healthy stock? Is he not in a better position to breed the right bee than the average commercial beekeeper?

Even as the Act stands, and the necessary certificate was granted, would any purchaser of a costly breeding queen—say in a two-frame nuclei—be quite content to know that before he gets her some inexperienced official was interfering with the said nuclei, with every chance of doing more harm than good? It is not fair to the purchaser, and far from fair to the queen-breeder. Is it not after all a matter of trust and confidence? How can the examining officer pass his opinion of queens and bees in mailing cage? To a certain extent he may be able to diagnose Isle of Wight disease, and then only when the bees are in the very grip of the disease. As for foul-brood—well, he has no possible chance whatever.

To-day both foul-brood and Isle of Wight disease are considered curable; yet we have not come to the absolute sure cure system without some sacrifice. No doubt it will come in time; and even with a sure cure, if prevention is not strictly adhered to—well, the disease will reappear. Probably the generality of beekeepers would be prepared to accept the queen-breeder's or inspector's certificate, and buy in confidence. Such a basis should work satisfactorily, and ultimately by constant and careful selection achieve the desired end of minimising disease.

It is to be hoped that the guiding principal of any scheme will be to the help of the industry, rather than check it with undue impossible restrictions. "Get rid of the disease" should undoubtedly be the slogan, but do it in a proper, systematic manner.

Hoping that ere long something will be done which will be of mutual advantage to the New Zealand beekeepers and the queen-breeders of Australia,—I am, &c.,

E. E. ABRAM.

"The Beecroft Apiaries," Berrina, N.S.W., Australia.

[We do not view the matter quite in the same light as our correspondent. There was a time, no doubt, when the importation of bees and queens was an absolute necessity; but we are of the opinion that the time has now passed.

In the first paragraph, our friend makes the statement, "but first the introduced blood must be superior to the existing strain," and therein lies the crux of the whole matter.

What guarantee has an importer of queen bees that the strain he is getting is any better or even as good as the strain he already possesses? There is every possibility he might get a strain that is not as good as he already has, and of course the possibility of an improvement.

We do not agree that the prevalence of disease is due to an inferior strain of bees in New Zealand; this is due chiefly to the careless beekeeper, who neither bothers about the strain of bees or anything else, providing he can dodge the penalties of the law.

New Zealand has happily some very excellent queen-breeders, who take every care in breeding by selection, and the quality they turn out has, according to our own experience, been every bit as good as from imported queens.

The idea of the legislation was not that we were free of disease ourselves, but

that we wanted to prevent the possibility of other diseases being introduced. For instance, in parts of Australia they have a disease known as the "disappearing trick"—the bees simply vanish from the hives. We have nothing like this, and it was with the idea of keeping this and other diseases out of this country that the beekeepers asked for legislation.—Ed.]

A New Bee.

TYPE NEVER FOUND IN ENGLAND BEFORE.

A strange new bee, pitch black and of large proportions, has been found in Hertfordshire by Mr. Harold A. Geldard, on a farm at Hunton Bridge. Both the insect and the nest are curious, and have never been found in England before.

The bee is common round the Mediterranean, but its previous most northerly range was Bonn, Germany. It is also known in Central Asia and Africa.

Last July a trickling of fine sawdust was noticed coming from a hole in an old fence, and on the insertion of a blade of grass out tumbled what looked like a huge black beetle. It was afterwards identified as a new specimen at South Kensington Museum, to which the nest and the bee have been presented. It is named Xylocopa Violacea L., or Violet Carpenter bee.

It is more than 1¾in. across its wings when they are outstretched, and from head to tail a little less than an inch long.

The colour of the bee is its most remarkable feature. Its legs and its body are a deep jet black. The wings have a splendid violet iridescence, and glisten when turned to the light, reflecting in their brightness glittering hues of copper on a rich violet.

It leads a solitary existence. The queen bee alone bores into softened wood for nesting purposes, using her jaws for the purpose, and will cut several passages more than a foot long. The passages are divided into cells by means of particles of sawdust cemented together with a saliva of the bee and placed to form a partition across the passages. Each cell is stored with a quantity of food, consisting of pollen grains made into paste with honey. An egg is laid near the food before the cell is finally sealed up.

Eventually the eggs hatch into grubs, which remain within the cells feeding upon the pollen paste until they become full-grown. They then turn into chrysalides and remain thus until the following spring, when they emerge as full-grown adult bees.

Bees are not long-distance fliers, and rarely travel more than a few miles from the locality where they first see light. How, then, did this Carpenter bee travel from its native place, which may be from 800 to 1,000 miles away, to the locality where it was discovered?

Though the bee has a sting, it is quiet and inoffensive in its habits.

—Clipping.

Correspondence.

[The publication of any letter does not necessarily imply our agreement with the subject matter, and we do not hold ourselves responsible for the opinions expressed by correspondents.]

(TO THE EDITOR.)

Sir,—I enclose a sketch of a simple idea that may be appreciated by beekeepers. Everyone who has worn a Brussels net veil knows how annoying the folds are, and especially when a slight wind blows. A piece of fencing wire sewn to the veil as shown will do away with this annoyance, and a little piece of white cloth sewn in the back will avoid the mistake when in a hurry of putting it on wrong. I am using such a veil now, and find it excellent. —I am, &c.,

C. SMEDLEY.

Te Awamutu.

Front.



Straighten out the front before sewing; wire level with bottom of chin.

Dope for Bee Stings.—Dr. A. F. Bonney, in the "American Bee Journal," says if the following is applied at once, he believes it will stop pain and prevent swelling:—Spirits of camphor, 6 drams; tincture of iodine, 2 drams; glycerine, 10 drops.

(TO THE EDITOR.)

VITAL MEASUREMENTS.

Sir,—"Geron," p. 12 (Jan. issue) puts a pertinent query. In potential advantages, he goes further than I do in the quotation from my letter; but it is only the logical sequence one would expect on looking closely into the subject. Exhaustive investigation may well reveal hitherto unsuspected factors governing the surplus producing capacity of bees.

One observation respecting the Caucasian bees, specially noted by me, is touched upon in the last paragraph of the quotation from my letter, colour of honey. That produced by the Caucasians was markedly lighter than the produce of any other race of bees in my apiary, all produced under identical conditions, the forage at the period being chiefly the late clover crop and wild blackberry. The work in the Caucasian supers attracted my attention at the outset, and separate extraction was decided upon. The honey proved to be a first-class grade of clover honey, delicious in flavour, and the lightest for colour I have yet garnered here, density medium, candying white, firm, and finely grained—clearly a pure clover product. Judging by the splendidly plump combs, perfectly sealed, there was no lack of this nectar for a far greater force of bees than were working it.

In comparison, the work of the pure Italian bees was a poor second, both in quantity and quality, and it was largely from blackberry, as were other races and crosses.

The occasion was after the main flow (clover), when blackberry is not available, nor any other flora of importance but the clover crop.

Clearly here is a contrast which might repay investigation.—I am, &c.,

M. ATKINSON.

Fakenham, England.

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LOYALTY TO THE H.P.A.

(TO THE EDITOR.)

Sir,—Our good and energetic Editor makes mention in the May number of a Palmerston North shareholder advertising honey for sale. I am the said shareholder, and I would like it understood that (outside the H.P.A.) I sell only to the consumer, so that, if I understand the position aright, I am a loyal shareholder. But, wait. I must own up that last spring, having about five dozen small packages of honey left on my hands, I sold these to storekeepers. This is the extent of my backsliding, and I promise, Mr. Baines, not to do it again as long as I am a shareholder. May the shadow of our Editor never grow less!—I am, &c.,

J. WALWORTH.

[Good for you, friend Walworth.—Ed.]

Answers to Correspondents.

H. P., Tai Tapu; T. O., Temuka; H. T., Greendale.—Thanks for stamps and good wishes.

N. B., Kaihere.—Thanks for stamps. We think if you wrote the manager of the H.P.A. on the matter of tins, you would have no further cause for complaint. It is purely a matter for the management to remedy.

H. S., Pukerau.—You state the young bees are half out of the cells, and seem to be sealed tight in the cell with wax. We do not know that we have met such a condition, but perhaps the following will give you an idea of what the trouble is. If the bees are head first in the cells, it is starvation. If they are head outwards, they got chilled just at hatching, and had not sufficient strength to get right out.

Queen Introduction.

CAN IT BE MADE 100% SUCCESSFUL?

By ALLEN LATHAM.

Of all the trials to which beekeepers are subjected, few try the patience beyond the killing of a choice queen by some bolshevik bees. The subject of queen introduction has, perhaps, been brought into the columns of the bee journals as often as any, and countless ways of introducing queens have been offered. Many of these suggested methods have their merits, but all have one common weakness—they all fail at times. Tom succeeds with one method, while Dick fails with that but succeeds with another. Is there some one method which is fool-proof, which will work with all varieties of bees, and which will work under all conditions? Am I about to offer such a boon to the beekeeping world?

No; I cannot offer this boon, but I do think that I can offer a method which is simple and within the reach of all, and one which comes as near reaching the 100% mark as we shall ever find unless we are willing to adopt a method which costs more than the death of an average queen. A breeding queen should never be subjected to any other method than that of letting her loose upon combs of hatching brood, kept warm by artificial heat, and from which all old bees are excluded. This is a 100% method, but is too costly for the regular procedure.

The method I am about to explain will not work with colonies that are queenless. It can be used only with colonies which

another. As at the present development of beekeeping, a very large per centage of all queen introduction is re-queening, this new method will prove usable in the vast majority of cases.

Proceed as follows:—Find the old queen and cage her, with or without attendants. This cage need have no candy nor exit hole. It may be a piece of half-inch board 1½ in. square with an inch hole sunk in one side, over which hole is tacked a square of wire-cloth. Place this cage with that which contains the new queen side by side on the top-bars of the frames. So place them that they are wire down over a space between two frames. Also adjust them so that the candy-plugged exit of the cage containing the new queen is closed to the bees of the colony by the other cage. Close the hive, and leave it thus for 48 to 60 hours.

It is well to place several thicknesses of burlap or other loose material over the cages before putting on the cover. A cold night, or a hot, sunny day will, perhaps, ruin the caged queens. Right here let me ask: How many caged queens are probably lost every summer because only a thin cover is between the cage in which the queen is confined and the sunshine of a midsummer day?

After the lapse of two or three days remove the cage containing the old queen. In ninety-nine cases out of one hundred the other cage will be found with no angry bees about it, and its inmates will be found well fed by the bees of the colony. Slightly loosen the cardboard over the candy, or punch a small hole in it. Frequently, in the case of weak colonies, the bees will not release the new queen for weeks, if they do not get a taste of the candy. I have even known them to propolize the cardboard entirely over, thus sealing the queen in for eternity unless the beekeeper intervenes. Now close the hive and let it be undisturbed for four or five days.

This method has several features of unusual value, some of which I will enumerate and enlarge upon.

Of prime importance is the fact that the colony is never de-queened. Not being de-queened, it does not acquire the frenzy which a de-queened colony is likely to acquire. Not acquiring that frenzy, it omits, usually, the results of that frenzy. In other words, it will not commonly construct queen-cells under the treatment which I have outlined. Of even more importance, it will not acquire the animosity against the new queen which it would have if the old queen were not present.

This last statement is most suggestive. I will not take space to go into it further, but every student of bees will find it a very resourceful subject for study. I will barely mention that I have had colonies care for and feed upwards of ten queens for weeks at a time, each queen without any attendants, and all cages without food. I once thought to winter surplus queens after such manner, but found that eventually all queens but one would be deserted as the rigours of winter set in.

Another very important fact develops from this absence of animosity towards the new queen. She is fed by the bees very soon, if not at once. Consequently queens thus introduced fare much better than those which have to subsist upon the candy in the cage. All the attendants of the new queen can be removed, and even the candy, and usually all will be well. I find, however, that sometimes a queen is allowed to starve, and for that reason I furnish the cage with a moist candy, if no escort bees are present, and the usual candy if the escorts are there. In most cases both escorts and queen are soon fed, and after several days the candy in the cage will be but slightly diminished. Hence the new queen is in a plump condition by the time she is released, and gets to laying very promptly.

Another consequence of this plan of introducing queen bees is the absolute certainty that a colony need not remain queenless for more than a day or two. Why do I make this statement? I will tell you. The old queen is not killed. When I introduce queens by this plan and feel at all doubtful about the outcome, I put the old queen into a cage stocked with candy and escort bees at the time I remove her from beside the other queen. This cage is placed in the upper part of the hive, between the cushion and the inner cover. Four days later, when I look into the hive to see if the new queen is O.K., if I find that through some defect the introduction has been a failure, I simply put the old queen down where the bees can release her, and let the colony go until I can try again.

That last paragraph suggests that this method has its failures. I will say that I simply take that precaution. I have never had to carry it to fulfilment more than two or three times. I think that in those two or three times failure was not due to the method, but was due to some defect in the queen. Do the best we can, some queens are weaklings, doomed to a short existence. In one of those few cases the queen was found dead in the cage—had probably been subjected to an injury when put into the cage, which injury eventually proved fatal, but was at first overlooked.

I have in a great many cases left the old queen over the top-bars, and instead of removing her shifted the cages so that the new queen cold be released. In the majority of cases the new queen would be released and soon be laying, but in other cases they have turned up missing. Some queens are too nervous to bear the presence of another queen in the hive, and so conduct themselves that the bees cannot endure them. I am fully persuaded queens introduced by this method would be perfectly safe if they would behave themselves in a quiet manner and not go

on a rampage. As I could not control this factor, I adopted the plan of removing the old queen on the third day.

Another modification I have tried is as follows:—Both cages are shoved into the entrance wire up. The third day, as before, the cage with the old queen is pulled out. Unfortunately, when this modification is tried there are many failures. I think this is due to the fact that the bees in the upper part of the hive are of a different age from those on the bottom-board.

One of the charming features of this method is that it works with Italians, blacks, Carniolans, hybrids, &c. I have succeeded repeatedly with it with colonies of the most vicious hybrids.

There is one feature which I have not decided upon as to their merits. I have said above that the old queen could be with or without escorts. I have not yet decided whether it is better to give her escorts or not. If my readers try this method of introduction next season, I hope that they will experiment along this line. I have practically always put the old queen back with no escorts, but it has occurred to me of late that if escorts were furnished the colony might show even less uneasiness about its queen than when the queen has no escorts. Though the colony does not go into a frenzy, it does show that something is wrong.

—American Bee Journal.

The Field Day.

The skies were blue, the day was fair,
The glorious shimm'ring summer air
Floated in wand'ring zephyrs gay,
And tempted us "make holiday!"
We came from far and near to see
What meant the "Field Day of the Bee";
All other work aside we laid,
That we might learn the beeman's trade.

We came by road, we came by train,
And though none came by aeroplane,
The cycle, gig and petrol 'bus
Transported scores and scores of us.

At first the talk was "Lovely day!
This summer weather's come to stay!"
And then it turned to "Honey crop;
And will the market show a drop?"
Some little talk of queens and breeds
And of the help the beeman needs
If in the bank some cash he'd find
When all his bills are stamped and signed.

And then he came—the wise man, whose
Vast store of knowledge should diffuse
Within our eager minds the light
To make our future pathway bright.
Unarmed beside the hive he stood,
Nor feared he bees in fighting mood.
Three puffs of smoke each hive subdued,
He did with them whate'er he would.

The tyro's eyes bulged with surprise,
"He handles bees as though they're flies!
No gloves, no veil, what is the spell
Whose magic might he wields so well?"
So braver grown, we gathered close,
No word of wisdom must we lose;
And one, whose veil was far too thick,
Bared eyes to see with movement quick.

Alas! alack! the bees had found
That daring stranger on their ground;
They filled the air with sportive din,
And rushed to get their lances in.

He fled the place in quick alarm,
With frantic, wildly waving arm;
But ere his eyes were safely hid
He'd gained three punctures in one lid!
With chastened mien again he turned
To where the lamp of knowledge burned,
And as his bee-lore grew apace,
A swelling covered half his face.

We heard in language clear and plain:
"To those who wish success to gain,
These maxims must the beemen know
To guide their hands where'er they go;
Let ev'ry hive be very strong,
Be sure that all your queens are young,
Then if you choose your site with care
Your prospects should be very fair."

"And see your yard from germs is free,
However large your apiary,
And give your forces lots of room
Whene'er the clover is in bloom."
So on he spoke two hours or more,
On ev'ry point he seemed to score;
No question was too large for him,
Each query he attacked with vim.

And then we heard, "Our hostess waits
To feed the strangers in her gates."
And underneath a spreading tree
A well-filled board we soon could see.
The tea was good, the cakes were prime,
We felt we'd had a lovely time;
When empty was each plate and cup,
We found our time was nearly up.

And so we gathered round the one
Whose work had shown what can be done;
We cheered him loud with one accord,
And praised and thanked with chosen word.
We cheered our host and hostess too,
And thanked them both and then withdrew;
And as we took our homeward way,
We said, "Here ends a perfect day."

MELISSA.

James Frizzell was charged under the Apiaries Act, 1908, with keeping bees in boxes without frames. Defendant stated that he had destroyed the boxes after receiving notice to do so. He was convicted and ordered to pay costs (9/-). Richard Heyward and Andrew Ward, on similar charges, were each fined 40/- with costs (7/-). Mr. A. P. Young appeared for the Agricultural Department.—Lyttelton Times July 20th.

Moving round among soldier settlers who have been assisted by the Lands Department or the Repatriation Board, an enthusiast came across a vigorous and healthy family of beekeepers, who from choice and pleasant experience were living almost exclusively upon the product of the bees. Hard ship's biscuit and an equal thickness of congealed honey provided three meals a day. Honey dissolved with a little vinegar and mixed with spring water formed their only drink. They declared that all bodily, mental, and financial troubles had disappeared under this model of simple life.—Clipping.

* * * *

Lady to Beekeeper: "So you keep bees! I think they are just perfectly adorable little creatures; I have just read Maeterlinck's 'The Life of the Bee.' But one thing has always puzzled me: How do you put that little wooden box around the cake of honey without crushing that delicate wax?"—American Bee Journal.

Subscriptions Received.

[NOTE.—Should there be found any discrepancy, please write the Editor.]

H. B. Owen, Inglewood, to March 22
J. Wotherspoon, Waihi, to Feb. 22
A. C. Kimber, Springston Sth., to April 22
R. Murray, to April 22
A. Ecroyd, Chch., to April 22
R. Allsworth, Feilding, to May 22
A. J. May, Island Block, to April 22
L. J. Heney, Peel Forest, to March 22
E. Wallington, Opotiki, to March 22
H. Parrett, Tai Tapu, to Sept. 22
W. Kennedy, Annat, to April 22
Mrs. H. Wheeler, Lake Grassmere, to March 22
M. O'Connell, Grey, to April 22
J. Murdoch, Ross, to April 22
Wingate Ltd., Auckland, to Jan. 22
W. R. B. Mitchell, Puriri, to April 22
H. Teage, Greendale, to May 22
M. Cable, Wellington, to March 22
Miss Bernard, Drury, to April 22
W. A. Willis, Pukekohe, to April 22
C. Campbell, Takaka, to March 22
J. C. Allison, Crofton, to April 22
W. S. Grenfell, Dunedin, to April 22
C. Hallett, Te Teko, to April 22
T. B. Lockhart, Milton, to March 22
J. P. Harker, Hastings, to April 22
J. Jolly, Miller's Flat, to May 22
K. Tsukigawa, Balclutha, to May 22
T. Orr, Temuka, to May 22
C. J. Clayton, Peel Forest, to July 22
P. Sullivan, Temuka, to April 22
J. Unsworth, Ngongotaha, to April 22
W. Lyall, Pigeon Bay, to June 22
J. Irving, Albury, to June 22
S. C. Rhodes, Tauranga, to Sept. 22
C. A. Oldman, Waiau, to June 22
J. T. McEwan, Runanga, to May 22
G. A. Hobbs, Foxton, to May 22
W. Gardner, Fairlie, to April 22
R. Wilson, Winton, to May 22
R. J. H. Nicholas, Hawera, to Aug. 22
L. D. Carter, Napier, to April 22
J. McLay, Katea, to April 22
R. Colquhoun, Blackball, to May 22
H. R. Penny, Okaiawa, to July 22
F. Butler, Roxburgh, to June 22
A. Baty, Coal Creek, to May 22
H. N. Goodman, Greenfield, to April 22
J. Scott, Rongomai, to April 22
A. C. Norton, Little River, to June 22
R. C. Groome, Ormondville, to June 22
R. Palmer, Feilding, to Aug. 22

Beekeepers' Exchange.

[Advertisements on this page will be inserted at the rate of 3/- per 36 words per insertion. Cash must accompany order or will not be inserted. Addresses care Editor 6d. extra to cover cost of postage of replies.]

National Beekeepers' Association of New Zealand.

Eighth Annual Conference

To be held at the

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, AUCKLAND,

JUNE 8th, 9th and 10th.

AGENDA PAPER.

FIRST DAY—WEDNESDAY, 8th JUNE.

10 a.m.—Official Opening of Conference.

10.45 a.m.—Minutes of Previous Conference.

11 a.m.—President's Address.

11.15 a.m.—Secretary's Report and Balance-Sheet.

11.30 a.m.—Report of the Standing Committee on Resolutions passed last Conference, and Discussion.

12 noon—Amendment to Constitution.—H. BARTLETT-MILLER.

Be it resolved by the members of the National Beekeepers' Association in Conference assembled:

The following Rules be added to and become part of the Constitution of the National Beekeepers' Association of New Zealand.

Nominations for officers of the Executive of this Association shall be made by the several Branches at that ordinary meeting of each Branch which immediately precedes a period eight clear weeks before the date fixed for the annual Conference of the National Association.

At such meeting each Branch shall nominate the full number of officers required to fill the personnel of the Executive body of the National Association, and the particular office which each individual is nominated to exercise.

Within four days of such nomination by any Branch, the Branch Secretary shall send the list of nominations to the Secretary of the National Association setting out the particular office which each nominee is selected to fill.

The Secretary of the National Association shall publish in that number of the official organ of the National Association immediately following the receipt by him of the Branch Secretary's report of the nominations the complete list as sent to him, as well as the name of the Branch sending the report.

Any Branch whose secretary shall fail to send such notice of nomination to the Secretary of the National Association within a period of fifty days immediately preceding the date of the annual Conference shall by such default thereby lose its right to vote for the officers of the Executive.

The Secretary of the National Association shall send within forty-five days of the date of the Conference in each year the full list of nominations received from the various Branches to every secretary of each Branch complying with these rules, and only such Branches shall be supplied with the list.

Every Branch which has complied with these rules shall within a period not less than 14 days immediately preceding the date fixed in any year for the Conference call a meeting for the business of electing from the complete list of nominations throughout the Association's Branches that number of officers required to fill the number of the members of the Executive of the National Association for the ensuing year, as well as any other business which the Branch may see fit to transact. The election of such officers shall distinctly state the particular office which each individual elected is elected to fulfil.

Only such persons as have been nominated for particular office in the Executive shall be eligible at the Branch elections to election to such office.

Within forty-eight hours of such election by each Branch, the secretary of the Branch shall send to the Secretary of the National Association the result of such election, together with the number of votes to which his Branch is by membership entitled as per rule of voting powers herein following.

During the progress of the Conference, at such time as the President shall determine, the Secretary of the National Association shall announce the total result of the voting as reported to him by the Branch secretaries, giving the number of the votes from each Branch accorded each individual candidate elected, as well as for those candidates not elected (if any).

In the event of a tie between any candidate or candidates thus elected, then the determination of the matter shall be carried out by oral voting among the duly accredited delegates from the Branches who shall vote so that those disposed may themselves check the voting. The Secretary shall announce the result of the vote by the delegates, and in the event of a second tie the final result shall lie with the casting vote of the President officiating at the meeting.

The voting power of each delegate shall be that to which his branch was entitled when electing the members of the Executive.

The delegates to the Conference shall be elected by the members of each delegate's Branch at any meeting preceding fifty-six days ahead of the date of the

annual Conference which shall be convenient to the Branch to convene.

Each Branch shall elect one voting delegate for the Conference, and no more.

Every duly appointed delegate shall have power of vote upon the tieing of election votes as well as upon all notices of motion before the Conference, and each such delegate shall cast his vote in accordance with the instructions given to him by his Branch members as by a majority of his Branch so decided; the value of each delegate's vote to be that which the membership of his Branch shall entitle him in accordance with the rules of voting power following.

The voting power of Branches for purpose of any matter submitted to the Branches for decision shall be at the rate of one vote for every five (5) members or odd portion of five (5) members of each Branch up to the first twenty-five (25) members and one additional vote for every twenty-five (25) members in excess of the first twenty-five (25) but only up to the first one hundred (100) members. No number in excess of 100 members shall count as giving any voting power to any Branch.

As hereinbefore set out the voting power of delegates to the Conference shall be in accordance with this last preceding section.

For the purpose of voting upon all other matters coming before the Conference only those in possession of a ticket duly signed by both the Secretary and President of each individual's Branch setting forth the fact that the holder of such ticket is a fully paid up member of his Branch for the year current shall be entitled to vote. Such ticket shall upon any person's vote being challenged by any other holder of a ticket or by any delegate or other officer of the Executive be produced by the party so challenged when failure to produce a ticket duly signed and for the current year shall void the vote of such challenged person.

Every holder of a financially paid up ticket shall be entitled to one vote only.

Delegates shall for all other purposes of voting than those hereinbefore specified have only one vote, but their election as delegates shall entitle them to vote as fully financial members of their respective Branch.

Every elected delegate shall obtain from his Branch secretary a credential setting forth his election as delegate for his Branch, which credentials shall be signed both by the Secretary and President of his Branch. He shall present such credential to the Secretary of the National at the Conference before exercising his vote at such Conference, and the Secretary of the National Association shall record the voting power of every delegate in accordance with the number of members in each delegate's Branch, which voting power shall be distinctly set forth in each delegate's credential in terms of these rules.

Every delegate shall upon being challenged by any other delegate or officer of the Executive produce his credentials or lose his vote in default of such production.

All voting by delegates shall be done orally so that any person so determining may himself make record of such voting. The Secretary shall record the results of all delegate voting by taking down the same in writing and convey the result to the President of the meeting for announcement.

Apart from all other matter herein provided, any irregularity resulting from non-compliance with these rules which may appear to affect the election of the Executive shall be determined by vote of the duly accredited delegates by open vote at the Conference in accordance with the immediately preceding section.

As hereinbefore set out, all notices of motion shall be decided by the votes of the duly appointed delegates as voicing the determination of their Branches, and this matter, together with the voting upon tieing of election vote, shall be the only special privilege of the delegates.

12.30 p.m.—Adjourn.

2 p.m.—"Ventilation."—E. W. SAGE.

2.25 p.m.—"Co-operation Among Our Beekeepers."—I. HOPKINS.

2.50 p.m.—"Honey House Construction."—A. B. TRYTHALL.

3.15 p.m.—"The Value of a Smile in Commerce."—W. E. BARKER.

3.35 p.m.—"How the Honey-producing Flora of New Zealand can be Increased."—W. WATSON.

4 p.m.—"Queen-rearing."—Y. H. BENTON.

4.25 p.m.—"The Use of Concrete in the Apiary."—C. F. HORN.

5 p.m.—Adjourn.

7 p.m.—Meeting for informal discussion.

10 p.m.—Adjourn.

SECOND DAY—THURSDAY, 9th JUNE.

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10 a.m.—Remits from Branches:—

Auckland Branch—

(1) The Establishment of a Fighting Fund, to provide funds for legal purposes in the event of a beekeeper being brought to Court for damage done by his bees.

(2) To again urge that the maximum penalty for breaches of the Apiaries Act be increased to £20.

(3) To urge the alteration of the reading of the registration cards to include a declaration as to the form of hive in use, whether box or frame hives.

(4) To insist on the appointment of a Chief Apiarist.

(5) To urge the necessity of amending the Registration of Apiaries Regulations by altering the period from triennial to annual registration.

Taieri Branch—

(1) This Branch strongly objects to any attempt to levy a beekeeper's tax, either for the purpose of augmenting the number of inspectors or for the purpose of enforcing the regulations of the Apiaries Act.

(2) That the National Association institute immediate and insistent action to force the Government to recognise and carry out efficiently the obligations which it has imposed upon itself by the passing of the Apiaries Act. That a petition signed by all beekeepers be drawn up for this purpose.

(3) That the idea of a self-imposed beekeepers' tax is vicious in the extreme, as being a tacit admission that the beekeeping industry has no right to participate without extra payment in the protection afforded all other industries.

Nelson Provincial Branch—

This meeting of the Nelson Provincial Branch have in regard to the ravages of foul-brood in this district, proposed the following remit:—

"That the Government should proceed immediately to impose a tax on the lines suggested at the last Conference on beekeepers throughout the Dominion."

Canterbury Branch—

That this Branch cannot see its way to support the proposed Apiaries Tax as at present constituted.

That members of Parliament be circularised in respect to the appointment of more inspectors.

West Coast Branch—

(1) That this Branch has no recommendation to make in regard to the proposed tax on beekeepers.

(2) That in the future the annual Conference be held in a more central place.

Clutha Valley—

This Branch cannot support the proposed Apiaries Tax.

Rangiora Branch—

This Branch strongly objects to any proposed tax on apiaries until all constitutional methods have been resorted to to carry out the law that has been passed by Parliament; and we consider it is time this law was most rigidly enforced.

This Branch strongly supports the line of political action outlined by the Editor of the N.Z. Beekeepers' Journal in the May issue.

That the Government be requested to appoint more inspectors.

That all the business and subjects of discussion (papers, &c.) be compiled in book form and forwarded to each Branch after the annual Conference, so that all members who are unable to attend the Conference may be kept in touch with the working of the Association.

That the Government be approached to grant the same concessions to travelling beekeepers attending the annual Conference of the Association as is granted to kindred societies.

That all remits be in the hands of the Secretary of the National Association early enough to be published in the May Journal, so as to allow all Branches time for discussion, thereby giving the the delegate from a Branch a chance of knowing the feeling of the members of his Branch on the various matters to be discussed.

Poverty Bay Branch—

That this Branch is not in favour of the tax on apiaries.

That the Conference urge the appointment of a Chief Apiarist and more inspectors.

12 noon.—"Acquisition of Apiary Sites."—W. B. BRAY.

12.30 p.m.—Adjourn.

2 p.m.—"The Future of the Honey Industry."—JAS. ALLAN.

2.25 p.m.—"Queen-rearing & Queen-breeding."—W. B. BRAY.

2.50 p.m.—"How Not to Do It, by One Who Did It"—R. W. BRICKELL.

3.15 p.m.—"Why I Like Large Hives."—JOS. BANKS.

3.35 p.m.—"Out-apiary Management."—H. R. PENNY.

4 p.m.—Present and Future Market Prospects."—C. F. RYLAND.

4.25 p.m.—"Economy in Production."—A. R. BATES.

5 p.m.—Adjourn.

EVENING SESSION.

6.30 p.m.—Supper and Social Evening at the Tiffin Dining Rooms, Queen Street. All visitors to the Conference are invited to be the guests of the National Beekeepers' Association and the N.Z. Honey Producers' Association Ltd.

THIRD DAY—FRIDAY, 10th JUNE.

10 a.m.—Unfinished Business

11 a.m.—Election of Officers.

12 noon.—Closing of Conference.

2 p.m.—Visit to the H.P.A. Depot: Mr. W. J. Jordan will take charge of the visitors.

2.30 p.m.—Melter Demonstration.—Mr. C. SMEDLEY.

3 p.m.—Melter Demonstration.—Mr. H. BARTLETT-MILLER.

3.30 p.m.—Mr. D. FRANKE will demonstrate his appliance for extracting thick honey without destroying the combs.

[FINIS.]

NOTE.—The exact order and time of the various items cannot be guaranteed, it being impossible to know exactly how much discussion the subjects will provoke.

Will those reading papers hand these to the Secretary directly they have been read, so that a full report of the Conference may be available to those who are unable to attend.

Printed by Stone, Son & Co., Ltd., Dunedin, for the N.Z. Beekeepers' Association, and Published by F. C. Baines, Kati Kati. June 1st, 1921.